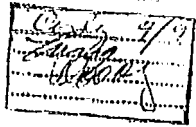


SURNAMIN



SEP 9 1986

Dr. David A. Jessup, D.V.M.  
International Wildlife Veterinary Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1413  
Orangevale, California 95662-1413


Dear Dr. Jessup:

As requested by Mr. Herb Raffaele of our Washington Office, we have reviewed the proposal to transplant Sonoran pronghorn to Tiburon Island. The recovery program for the subspecies does not as yet have sufficient information to initiate a transplant of animals and there is some question as to whether Tiburon Island is suitable for pronghorn.

Dr. Norm Scott of our Division of Wildlife Research Field Station at the University of New Mexico is of the belief that such a transplant was attempted in 1973 and failed. While on the island in 1976 he was informed by Mr. Margarito Rodriguez of the then Fauna Silvestre that pronghorn and bighorned sheep were introduced to the island in 1973. The sheep apparently became established but the pronghorn died. We do not have any details on the project and do not know if a study report was filed in Mexico City. It is not known if they used Sonoran pronghorn or Mexican pronghorn (A. a. mexicana). Dr. Scott hypothesized that the pronghorn probably died due to a lack of water. It is his opinion that water sources on the island, although accessible to bighorn sheep, would not be considered available to pronghorn. The Sonoran pronghorn recovery program has not as yet been able to determine the water requirements of the subspecies so we are unsure if water might have been a factor.

Thank you for informing us of the transplant proposal. We do have the thought of eventual transplants to aid the recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn; however, we are not ready for this step as yet.

Sincerely,

  
Jack W. Woody

cc: Mr. H. Raffaele, FWS/IA

GCARLEY:kl 9/5/86 (Jessup.ltr)

RETURN TO ENDANGERED SPECIES